

St. John Lutheran 11:00 7/17/77

*Processional Hymn 20
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Mark 7: 1-13
Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem 65
Announcements

VISITORS

BIBLE STUDY MON 8:00

LADIES AID THURS 7:30

CHoir PRACTICE WED. 8:00

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 476

Sermon

Prayer - Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 253

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

)

St. John Lutheran 11:00 7/17/77

*Processional Hymn 40
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Gal 5: 19-26
Hymn 12
Scripture Mark 7: 1-13
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer

*Hymn 225

Sermon

Prayer - Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 467

Benediction

*Threefold Amen

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

August 9, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 29
*Golemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin (page 4, 1st. prayer)
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture, Mark 7: 1-13
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 205
Sermon " Service or Lip Service ? "
Mark 7; vs. 7
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 355
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Link and his Family have completed their move and are now living at 16 S. Carlisle St., New Bloomfield. Their telephone number is 582-4798. If anyone has any problems or matters to discuss with Pastor Link he will welcome your visit or a telephone call.

MEN BREAKFAST AUG 23RD
IN WHITE NEW BLOOMFIELD MEN
NO CHURCH DUNCANNON.
ANY MAN WHOSE D ATTEND GIVE
NAME TO RUSSELL KINER

Service Or Lip Service?

Text: Mark 7: 7

"This people honors me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations."

Several years ago in California one bright sunny morning a wrecking crew pulled up in front of ~~this church~~^A and in a very short time were busily engaged in tearing it down. A man appeared on the scene in an hour or so and very frantically asked to see the foreman. When he located him he told him to stop at once, that he was the pastor of this church and there had been some mistake. The foreman pulled an order form out of his pocket and showed it to the minister. He said, "How don't that say to start demolishing the Church of God Mac?" The minister replied, "Yes it does, but the Church of God is across the street. This happens to be the Church Of Christ." Strange as it may seem this is a true story. But the point is that all too often we of a different denomination than some of our friends and neighbors can tear down their church but not our own. For all of the problems and ills that have beset us in our nation particularly, the hue and cry from a large majority of people has been, "Whats the matter with the church? Why don't they do something?" Or, "What have they been doing all of this time?" The strangest part about all of this is the fact that the cry has been led by of all people, Mr. & Mrs. John Q. Pewsitter. Yes, thats right the average church member. But we don't ask it of ourselves, we ask it of the other churches.

In order to place this in it's proper perspective, we need to first define the word "Church". What is it? What makes it a Church? And what is its duty or goals?

If we were to ask the question, what is the Church, I am sure we would get some very diversified answers. Some people would say, "Its a building." Others would say its like a club that certain people join and others do not. And still others would give answers like its a clique, or its a universal venture of many people. Now all of these can and are partially true. But the church for the first point is much, much more than a building. The building is ~~only~~^{only} the place

where the faithful meet to worship. To be completely correct we need to emphasize the fact that when we speak of, "The Church", ^{QUOTATION MARKS} we cannot think only in terms of a building, such as this or the other ~~these~~ buildings we know of as churches. We need to think of men and women throughout the world joining and banding together as followers of Jesus Christ. A good example of a similar word or phrase is, "The Federal government." We can pick up the ^{new} paper almost any day, ~~and almost any paper~~ and read where some councilman or commissioner will have made the statement, "We should get this project moving while the federal funds are still available. Or federal funds will pay for so much of a percentage of this project. And what is the federal government? It is you and I isn't it? But you see it all sounds so important and less personal when we say, "The federal government." So it is with "The Church." What is, "The Church"? It is you and I. Its not those other denominations, it is us. You and I who are the ones who sit in church Sunday after Sunday. When we bring it down to the personal level, this sort of has the tendency to make us squirm because then we realize when we have been asking what is wrong with the church, or why hasn't the church been doing something about the mess around us, we realize that we are talking about ourselves. We are the ones who have been remiss in many areas. We are the ones who have been lackadaisical about our commitment. When we place it in this ^{light} ~~perspective~~ we begin to see that we can't push it off on those ~~the~~ Lutherans, or those Methodists, or the United Church of Christ. Because it all boils down to me, personally and every other church member like me. Its like the story I once heard a minister tell of how people accept a sermon. The minister starts out by throwing a pitchfork toward the first pew, and the people there pass it on to the next pew because it was not meant for them, or it hit Mr So and So, I hope he is awake to hear it, or Mrs. Such and such should have been here to hear this it fits her to a Tee. And this goes on and on until the people in the last pew throw the pitchforks over their shoulders and no body takes the message as meaning him. But it fits the other fellow. So when we ask what is the church we must be able to say, it is me. I am the church. And in this way we can accept the blame for ~~the inactivity of the church~~ whatever it is the church is guilty of not doing in our present time.

What makes a Church a Church? Is it the structure? Is it the windows? Is it the type of wood used for the pews, the altar and the chancel area? ^{any of} it isn't these things. What really makes a Church a Church is what takes place within it's walls. What it shows forth in the community is what makes a church ~~be~~ a church for real. The most wonderful structure in the world is only a building made of wood, stone, brick and other materials unless the people make it come alive. A church must be vital, it must have life. This is only possible when its members are willing to work and to serve. ~~That spiritual?~~ An awareness of the presence of God helps to make a church vital also. A certain mother was trying to persuade her 8 year old son to go with her to church. "You go to the movies once a week, and you enjoy several hours entertainment, and you go down to Billy's house and you have a nice time. Now, don't you think it is only right that once a week you should go with me to God's house for just an hour?" The boy thought it over for a few minutes and then he said, "Well gee Mom. What would you think, if you were invited somewhere and everytime you went, the fellow was never there?" Have you ever been a church where you did not feel the presence of God? I have and it is like trying to worship in a mausoleum. Then there are other churches where you feel so at ease and at peace. A woman ^{VISITOR FROM OUT OF STATE} remarked to me last Sunday after church, that she liked to visit our Church, ~~and she is from out of state.~~ She said that she liked to visit our church because she felt like she had been in church. Now it isn't the church itself and it isn't anything material. What it is, is the warmth that loving people emit. The feeling of Christian fellowship with others. This is what makes the presence of God felt in any church. Amos said that God ~~has~~ said, "I hate and despise your feasts, I take no pleasure in your solemn festivals." In other words God does not want all of our ceremonies and man made rituals. What He wants is us. Our love, our devotion, and our response to Him. This is what makes a church.

What are the goals and duties of the church? To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all that have not heard it, or to those who are not now members of the Christian fellowship. This may mean that we must go to where these people are, ^{IT MAY MEAN THAT WE MUST GO} ~~and we must go to where these people are~~ to prison. Or ^{WE MAY HAVE TO GO} to some of the dives where some of these people are found. It may mean that we must show love to someone who